



Columbia Cascade Housing Corp.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COURT OF APPEALS REVERSES AND REMANDS LAND USE BOARD OF APPEALS DECISION ON REZONE OF TAX LOT 700

HOOD RIVER, OR (September 26th, 2018) – The Court of Appeals of the State of Oregon (COA) issued their decision today as it relates to the zone change of Tax Lot 700 for the purposes of developing affordable housing. The judicial review came at the request of Susan Garret Crowley and after the State’s Land Use Board of Appeals affirmed the City of Hood River’s decision to rezone the property in order to develop affordable housing in partnership with Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation (CCHC) and the Mid-Columbia Housing Authority. After an order to extend the decision beyond the statutory time for a decision on a judicial review was issued by the COA in July, the opinion has arrived in due time.

“Our board held a strategy session earlier this week to gain a better understanding of our potential paths forward in light of the looming decision [coming from the Court]”, said Scott Clements, CCHC Board President. “Lo and behold, the mere discussion has unlocked the decision! In all seriousness, this decision gives us a better understanding of our path forward to develop attractive, affordable homes on Tax Lot 700 in partnership with the City of Hood River.”

While the Presiding Judge dissented from the two others on the panel, the COA decision reverses and remands the Land Use Board of Appeals affirmation of the rezone highlighting ‘an implausible interpretation of a land use regulation’.

Since June of 2017 - when the Hood River City Council rezoned tax Lot 700 for the purpose of meeting the publicly identified need of more affordable homes - CCHC has worked intently to put together a development concept that would produce 65 affordable rental homes and preserve a significant amount of open space on Tax Lot 700.

“We’re committed to providing affordable housing opportunities in Hood River. We look forward to our continued partnership with the City and the broader community to bring this development to fruition. This decision adds to the complexity and path forward on this important community development.” – Joel Madsen, Executive Director.

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Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit affordable housing developer whose purpose is to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing that is affordable to very low-, low- and moderate-income persons. CCHC operates within Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties in Oregon as well as Klickitat and Skamania Counties in Washington.



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